Chapter 47:

The Mugwort Which Grows Among The Hemp, Part 2

.....
ME?
SQUEAK
CRASH
—!!
WATCH OUT !!
I'd better ...
Add him to my collection now, then?

*sfx: crash

EEP!
Waaah!
YES!
AT THIS RATE, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT !!
RIKU-GOU-SAN!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
UWA AAH ...
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
GRAB HOLD !!

GOT IT!
HEY, YOU! HELP BENI-CHAN AND THAT OTHER GIRL!!
GRAB
AI-SAN, YOU GET ON TOO!!
OF COURSE!
WAAH!
I'M ON!
!!
GRAB
UWAH!
HERE WE GO!

leap
THUD
CLING
AHHHH!!
HERE YOU GO~
AI-NEZU-SAN!

KANZOU HAS HER.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHERE IS HIZA-ME-SAN?

THEN WE WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED.
FU FU
AND IF HE WASN'T...?
IT'S A GOOD THING KUROTOBI-SAN IS HERE.
FU FU
THAT LITTLE BRAT DIDN'T GIVE A THOUGHT TO SAVING ME...

CRASH

JUMP
I'M COMING!

CRUSHED...?
GASP
WHERE IS TSUYU-KUSA!?
ARE THEY OKAY!?
HE'S AWFULLY SLOW

*sfx: crash
...
KYAAA, WE JUST MADE IT~!
!!
TOKI!! IN FRONT OF YOU!!!
HUH ?

GAAAH
SLAM
WAAH !!!
TCH!
WE'RE FALL-ING !!
HOLD ON ...!!
!!
FALL
GRAB

JUMP
TOKI ...!!
GASP
CLICK
SMASH
CLATTER
CLATTER

HISSSSS
!!
HE'S STRONG...
Nice try.
So you managed to leash a giant demon like it was a kitten, even if only for a moment.
But I know fighting isn't your forte, Kurotabi.

A GUY LIKE YOU ISN'T EVEN WORTHY OF LOOKING AT MY SISTER.
Hahaha, what a touching sibling relationship.
You just want to save your gullible little sister
SHUT UP
You're not cut out for controlling them How many times have I told you that?
You don't even like to see blood in a fight between demons

She doesn't hate the flesh-eating mask. I bet she'd be happy to see me.
I wonder. You're the only one who won't stop whining.
Would your sister be so disgusted if she saw me in this form?

Because you knew you'd see it all over again with your sister...
You feared I was losing my humanity
But you always worried that the more I used the demon mask
The more I started to look like a demon
Wouldn't that be tragic?
Maybe she'll end up like me too?
I'M NOT LIKE THAT !!
SHUT UP!
But if your little sister suddenly disappeared the same way... now that really would be tragic
Because you wouldn't have to see that miserable fate
WHAT
So you must have been really glad
When I disappeared, right?

Nah I guess you're not
You're a cold unfeeling bastard
You weren't heartbroken at all when I died
you can't even attack the demon
who killed me
OHO-
GOOD SHOW, GOOD SHOW!
LAUGH
HO
HO
HO
HO
LAUGH
LAUGH
LAUGH
NICE CHARACTER CHANGE
YOU REALLY SOUND JUST LIKE THEM
YOU'VE REALLY NAILED THE PART
ESPECIALLY TEASING KUROTOBI LIKE THAT
LAUGH
LAUGH
HI-SAMA!

.....
MUST YOU PERSIST?
THEN YOUR EFFORTS ARE IN VAIN.
YAKOU
IF YOUR INTENT IS TO STIR UP CONFLICT BETWEEN ALLIES
It's no good?
HMM
I see
You guys are tough nuts to crack
HEY !
CHOKE
He's the strongest demon fighter you've got,
But I kinda thought he'd be a little more intense, you know?
And I thought
he was the type who'll seize any chance for a fight
I thought I had you all figured out
HMPH !

I should have known
I can't detail something
That had no direction
GLARE
GLARE
No preparations
No plans
No preconceptions
GLARE
BUT THIS REALLY ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!
AND I'LL FIGHT ANYTHING ANYBODY THROWS AT ME
BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE
TCH'
I MEAN, I'M NOT TOTALLY OPPOSED TO DOING WHAT YOU SUGGESTED
HUH?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S GONNA DO STUPID SHIT,
THEN THAT PAIN IN THE ASS IS YOUR GUY!

GRRR
HEY, DON'T THINK THIS IS OVER BETWEEN US!!
AFTER THIS, I'M GONNA DEAL WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO HATORA-SAN...
SO YOU'D BETTER BE READY!
GRRR
HEY!
THAT'S MY LINE!
HMPH
YOU'D BETTER BE READY TOO, BECAUSE I'M GONNA BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF ANYBODY WHO HURT BYAKUROKU!
!
ARGUE
ARGUE

whimper

WAAAH!! YOU'RE SO MEAN!!
I'M SORRY!!
SOB
AND YOU!! GET A FUCKING CLUE!!
YELL

YOU HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW, DON'T YOU?
THEY'RE RIGHT.
PLEASE HOLD YOUR TEARS FOR NOW

YES YOU
I'M ME?

HE?
AND TO US, THE FACES OF SUIZUME-SAN AND HATOBA-SAN
I CAN CONTROL THIS THING
TO THAT DEMON THE FORM OF THAT GIANT SNAKE

CARRY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF BAGGAGE.
PLEASE HELP US FIND A WAY TO RECLAIM THEM,
OR TO AT LEAST KEEP HIM FROM USING THEM
gulp
UM.
OUR ENEMY IS THE YAKOU, BUT... LIKE THIS, WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM WITHOUT RESTRAINT.
turn
UH,
YOU SAY THAT BUT I DON'T
KAN-ZOU!!
grab
WAH!
Ding
slash

YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU, YOU JERK
I DUNNO
GAH!
*sfx smash
*sfx: roar
THE BARRIER AROUND THE SHRINE WAS DAMAGED,
SO HE'S CALLING ALL OF THE DEMONS FROM THE SURROUNDING FOREST.
HUH!?
AS EXPECTED, HE KNOWS HOW TO USE THE MASTER OF THE FOREST
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE PRAISING HIM!?
W... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!!?
AT THIS RATE...
RIKUGOU-DONO.

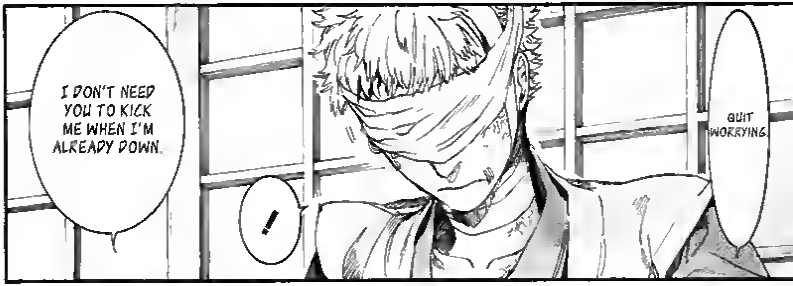
PLEASE IGNORE WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU,
AND LISTEN TO ME.
HUH?
BUT
HOW
WHEN THINGS ARE LIKE THIS
KURO-TOBI-SAN!!
TSUYU KUSA
touch
!!

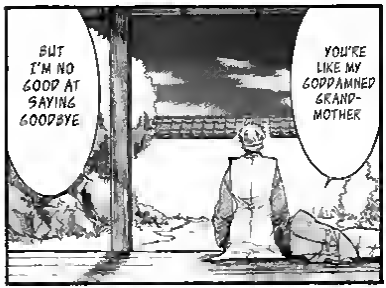
BUYING US TIME.
RIGHT NOW, THEY ARE JUST
THOUGH WE DO NOT MOURN, THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE DO NOT GRIEVE.
THOUGH WE DO NOT CRY, THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE DO NOT GRIEVE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN QUIT.
I DON'T NEED YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.
HUH ...?
ARE YOU WORKING TOO HARD ...?
ARE YOU... ALRIGHT?
... SUZU-ME?

I DON'T WANNA OWE THEM ANYTHING
HEH

YOU HAVE TO FEED THE MASK - IS THAT IT?
IF THAT'S ALL IT IS, THEN THE OTHERS COULD BRING IT FOOD

Pat
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT
...


I DON'T NEED YOU TO KICK ME WHEN I'M ALREADY DOWN.
!
QUIT WORRYING.


BUT I'M NO GOOD AT SAYING GOODBYE
YOU'RE LIKE MY GODDAMNED GRANDMOTHER

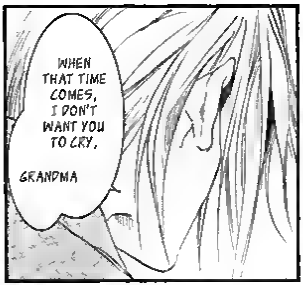
QUIT LOOKING AT ME LIKE
LIKE I'M GONNA DISAPPEAR
SUZUME

I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD
HERE, EAT
AOW
HA-TORA!

YEAH. WELL, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GO

...
YOU AND I HAVE RELUCTANTLY BECOME ROLE MODELS, I GUESS

I'M KURO'S
AND SUZUME YOU'RE BEN'S
THEY'RE STILL JUST KIDS


WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I DON'T WANT YOU TO CRY.
GRANDMA

BUT...
SNF
LOOK I DON'T WANNA FREAK YOU GUYS OUT OR ANYTHING

BECAUSE
WE JUST WANNA SEE YOU SMILE.
I SUPPOSE THEIR LIVES ENDED
WE'D SWORN NOT TO GO AFTER THEM WHEN THEY DISAPPEARED
JUST AS THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD
THEY BOTH DIED WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING A BODY TO BE BURIED.

Snap
AND THAT IS WHY...
I CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO BE DISGRACED!!
RIKUGOU -DONO,
THE YAKOU...
MANIPULATES INVISIBLE STRINGS...
CURSED STRINGS THAT TURN THE DEAD INTO PUPPETS.

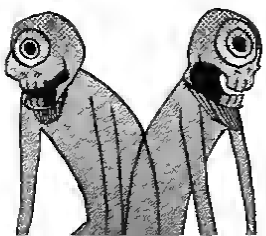
STRINGS
THOSE STRINGS MUST BE CUT...!!
INSIDE MY MIND
IT'S LIKE THERE ARE THREADS PULLED TIGHT
!
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM TO COUNT...
FLOATING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND
THEY'RE IN EVERY COLOR
AH.

THAT'S...
SNAP
THAT'S IT!
FREEZE
SFX shock

What
wObble
Just happened ...
Gah!
Glare
hiss
No desires,
You have no goals,
No wishes,
And no place in Heaven's Net..
hiss
hiss
hiss
hiss

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
IT WAS YOU!

YOU IDIOT !!
gasp
WATCH OUT !!
!!!
KON!!
sfx stab stab stab



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